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Dated: March 21, 2006

Signature:

*Judy Bridgwater*  
Judy Bridgwater

Docket No.: 577212000101  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Christopher J. STANLEY

Application No.: 09/760,819

Filed: January 17, 2001

For: USE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS BOUND TO  
CARRIER MACROMOLECULES

Confirmation No.: 5588

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: F. W. M. Lu

### FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. This Preliminary Amendment is in further response to the Final Office Action mailed December 23, 2005, for which a response is due on March 23, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.